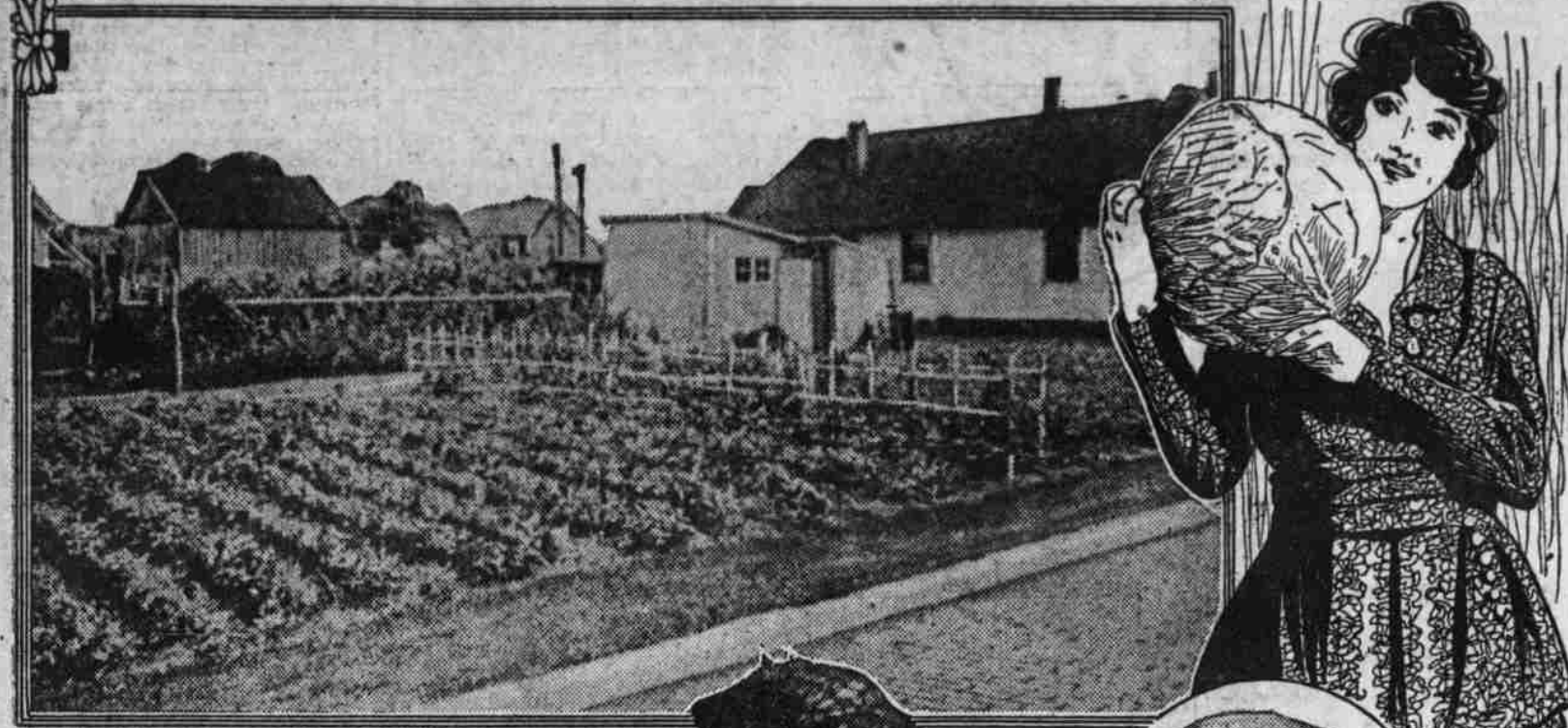


# War Garden Victorious



SMALL HOME GARDEN, MARION, INDIANA

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN.

IT IS now a truism to say that America is the wealthiest and most powerful nation of earth. We Americans, with all our individual and collective faults, are truly a great people. Sometimes we are so great that we astonish even ourselves. We have astonished ourselves, for example, by the way we have behaved about food during the last two years.

When we entered the war we were the best fed people on earth and had been for generations. An incidental proof of this is that the American soldier astonished Europe with a new physical type, the result of favorable conditions of life and adequate food. And this new physical type proved itself a little huskier and harder and deadlier at the business of killing than any previous type of man.

But when we entered the war, at the mere suggestion of the necessity that faced us, the 110,000,000 of us curbed our appetites, denied ourselves goodies, put ourselves on rations and started in 'pon honor to conserve food—and stuck to it till the necessity was past. It was a most astonishing spectacle.

Not only that, but millions of us voluntarily started in to make gardens and raise food. Many of these voluntary gardeners hardly knew a spade from a hoe; some probably thought that potatoes grew in the grocery store. Certainly lots of these gardeners had no land. But it made no difference. The American people went to gardening. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the war gardens of the workers stretched in almost unbroken line. The cotton mills of the East, the lumber camps of Oregon, the mining towns of Arizona, the great factories of the middle West, the shipyards of Texas—all saw the upspringing of innumerable war gardens. The second summer saw the first rebud.

It's too soon for us to begin to appreciate what this war rationing and this war gardening has done in winning the war, feeding the world and benefiting the American people. But anyone interested in getting a first glimpse at what this gardening has done for us should get hold of a book just out, "The War Garden Victorious," by Charles Lathrop Pack. It is not for sale, but it is being distributed to libraries, and to organizations and individuals identified with war garden work. Mr. Pack is the organizer and president of the national war garden commission and his book is a record of war garden activities and successes, dedicated "to the war gardeners of the United States and allied countries in admiration of their success in adding to the world's supply of food during the world's war." Mr. Pack fittingly presented the first copy to an American woman who is typical of the spirit that made the war garden victorious—Mrs. Thomas Edwards of Oberlin, O. She is ninety-five years of age, but she enlisted with the war gardeners at the first call and showed she was not too old to learn by changing her life-long methods and adopting the cold-pack method of canning.

## Co-operation Wins Victory.

Some people might think a book of record and reference on war gardens must necessarily be dull reading. This one isn't. It's good reading. Any real American can get patriotic thrills out of it—besides learning a lot. Mr. Pack is not laboring under the delusion that his national war garden commission was the whole thing. He knows it was the loyal co-operation of the people that made the war garden such a splendid success.

Mr. Pack also appreciates what the press of the country did for the movement. He knows that all the purpose, all the enthusiasm, all of the ability of those in charge of the commission's activities might have been the sweetness of effort wasted on the desert air of indifference had not the American press got behind the movement with all its power. The closing chapter is devoted to an illuminating account of the tremendous enthusiasm with which the American daily and periodical press responded to the opportunity, and how the publicity material was prepared and distributed.

"The printed word, the most powerful force known to civilization, made war gardens possible. In no other way could they have been made to multiply so rapidly in all parts of the land. From printer's ink to parsnips and parsley is a long jump; but the newspapers and magazines made that jump along with the others which they made for Liberty loan, the Red Cross, and various other war-work campaigns. How much of a debt of gratitude the nation owes to its patriotic editors it probably will never be able to realize fully, but it does know that without their wholehearted support and their loyal assistance it would never have been able to arouse the people of the United States as a whole to the strenuous efforts which they exerted to back up the government and the fighting forces. No note of appreciation to the editors of the country could be overgenerous in its praise or too liberal in its expression of heartfelt thanks for their substantial aid."

## War Garden Commission.

That the world faced a deficit in food and that there existed an emergency which could be met only by the raising of more food, was apparent during the early months of 1917.



MRS. THOS. EDWARDS, 95, OBERLIN, OHIO

Mr. Pack wishing to do a war work which was actually necessary, which was essentially practical and which would certainly aid in making the war successful, conceived the idea in March, 1917, of inspiring the people of the United States to plant war gardens in order to increase the supply of food without the use of land already cultivated, of labor already engaged in agricultural work, of time devoted to other necessary occupations, and of transportation facilities which were already inadequate to the demands made upon them.

He thereupon organized the national war garden commission. It was not a federal government body, though it was indorsed by the administration, and the quartermaster general's office co-operated with it at soldiers' camps. The commission consisted of Charles Lathrop Pack, president, of New Jersey; Luther Burbank, California; P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Charles W. Elliot, Massachusetts; Dr. Irving Fisher, Yale university, Connecticut; Fred H. Goff, Ohio; John Hays Hammond, Massachusetts; Fairfax Harrison, Virginia; Myron T. Herrick, Ohio; President John Grier Hibben, Princeton university, New Jersey; Emerson McMillin, New York; A. W. Shaw, Illinois; Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, chairman of the conservation department of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Illinois; Capt. J. B. White, Missouri; Hon. James Wilson, former secretary of agriculture, Iowa; Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carl Vrooman (for the year 1917); P. S. Ridsdale, executive secretary, who was also executive secretary of the American Forestry association, with the conservation department of which the commission was affiliated, and Norman C. McLeod, associate secretary. Mrs. Sherman also was appointed by the department of the interior a special assistant director, in charge of women's organizations, of the United States school garden army, with which the commission was in close co-operation.

"Put the slacker land to work" was the first slogan of the commission. War gardens are essentially family-power institutions. But big business caught the spirit of the hour and capitalized the enthusiasm of numbers and the healthy rivalry of teams by establishing community gardens financed by it and worked by its employees. The railroads went big business one better; the children of the nation put it over both of these; "daylight saving" gave them all a chance to take time by the forelock; while preserving kettles, canning clubs and dehydration plants all contributed their several shares in the saving of the fruits of the national endeavor.

## Results Are Amazing.

The results were amazing. The 1917 war gardens numbered approximately 3,500,000, and their food products are estimated at \$350,000,000. The 1918 reports show 5,285,000 gardens and food products of \$525,000,000. The first season 500,000,000 quarts of vegetables and fruits were canned; in 1918 the number increased to 1,450,000,000 quarts.

This, of course, is but a small part of the story. It needs such a book as this to show us how many other things there are to the story, as, for instance, the releasing of many kinds of labor and the lessening of railroad congestion. The book gives an interesting picture of a mighty host, many millions strong, gaining new strength and reinvigorated health by handling the hoe, and getting exercise as good as golf and tennis, more profitable than either and more patriotic than both. The gardens they tilled ranged from a neglected, weed-matted, rubbish-littered vacant lot to a city park. The boys at Camp Dix went over to the top as gardeners at home before they got their opportunity to go over the top as crusaders in the glorious cause of human liberty abroad.



CHARLES LATHROP PACK

Then there is the social as well as the domestic side. Community gardening, for instance, is practically the only method by which all available garden space may be put to work, by which labor may be most efficiently employed, by which economy in purchasing power may be best exercised and by which it is possible to secure expert supervision. But these things are material. There is a value beyond them, which one finds recorded here, the value of the community spirit as it marks the increasing solidarity of society.

A like value is also recorded in this volume in its description of the gardens established by many large corporations and industrial and transportation concerns for their employees, resulting in a feeling of fellowship not previously existing between capital and labor.

The illustrations really illustrate the text. The series of striking posters used in the publicity campaign are reproduced in color. There are 61 full-page illustrations in half tone, many of which are exceedingly interesting. The small home garden in Marion, which is shown herewith, is not especially pictorial, but was selected because it is a war garden typical of hundreds of thousands seen the country over—and, let us hope, long to be seen.

## Victory Garden a Fixture.

Mr. Pack predicts that the war garden—now the victory garden—is a fixture. The food conditions of the world will make it necessary for many years, and during that time the value of gardening will have become so apparent that the movement will continue until it has become a fixed habit and firmly implanted in the lives of the people.

Herein lies the tremendous importance of the United States school garden army, which already has a membership of nearly 4,000,000. For the mobilization of the school children the logical agency was the United States bureau of education of the department of the interior. P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, approached the undertaking with broad vision and keen foresight characteristic of his administration of educational affairs for the federal government. Under his guidance there came into being the United States school garden army, mobilized with effective promptness and swung into action under the leadership of J. H. Francis as director. Doctor Francis is an educator of note who was drafted into this important work by Commissioner Claxton, and he brought to bear on the enterprise perception and aggressiveness which achieved results of national importance in comparatively brief time. President Wilson was keenly interested in the United States school garden army. His cordial indorsement was expressed in a letter to Secretary Lane which served as the corner stone of the structure and an inspiration to the children of America.

From the beginning the commission and the school garden army have worked in entire harmony. The commission has furnished the army its publications, and has prepared special 1919 printings for its exclusive use. Director Francis in the introduction says the mighty army of school children must help to get together the two factors of leisure time and patriotism and of thousands of acres of uncultivated lands. Superintendents of schools must make their schools a vital force in giving more food to the world and in conserving what is produced.

Secretary Lane's special message to the school garden army contains this forceful paragraph: "The boys and girls who have liberty gardens in 1919, the garden army officers who assist in keeping the army efficient, and the teachers who direct the work, will render a patriotic service to be compared only to that of the men who won the war."

Mrs. Sherman says: "In the opinion of the 2,000,000 members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs there is no other one subject that will give the physical, mental and moral development to the child that may come from learning to produce food from the soil. We also believe that gardening for children is a part of the school education of a child; that it ranks in importance with reading, writing and arithmetic, and that the schools are the only agency equipped to handle the subject in a comprehensive and adequate manner. The National Council of Women with 29 national organizations is unanimous in its support of gardening for children under school direction."

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

## Soon Birdmen Will All Be Machine-Made Aviators

WASHINGTON.—A machine that enables you to experience all the physical sensations of flying and to test your fitness for aviation without once losing your hold upon the earth, has just been adopted by the war department for use in training its pilots. It is probable that this device, known as the Ruggles orientator, will be a feature of all flying schools, and will enable civilians as well as soldiers to determine without risking their lives whether they are fit for flying.

The machine consists of two sets of steel rings, the larger one of which is 12 feet in diameter. One ring revolves in the horizontal plane and the other in the perpendicular plane. The rings are driven by small motors so that they revolve within each other. The "boat," in which the pupil sits, is suspended from the inner ring, and its movements may be controlled by either set of rings. The motors which control the boat may be operated from within by the pupil or from the outside by the instructor. The prospective pilot seats himself in the boat while the instructor sits, with his hand on the control, alongside his machine. The instructor can put his pupil through all the motions of a machine in the air by operating the controls, which are connected to the machine by means of wire batteries. After several demonstrations of looping-the-loop, dipping, gliding and volplaning, the pupil is permitted to operate the machine by the controls in the boat. The test is even more severe than that of actual flying. If the neophyte has anything the matter with his heart, nerves or stomach which will disqualify him for flying, the orientator will bring the fact out at once.

It used to take a hero to tackle the game.

Soon the birdman will be machine-made.

## Congress Not Going to Stand for the Red Flag

CONGRESS is not going to stand for the red flag in the United States. May day demonstrations, signalized with the waving of red flags in various cities, have served to emphasize the determination of congressional leaders to force enactment of legislation which will prohibit and penalize such demonstrations.

While the propaganda committee of the senate has had the subject under consideration and probably will submit a bill on the issue, there is one senator who is not going to wait for a committee to initiate such legislation. He is Senator New of Indiana, who submitted an anti-red flag bill at the last session which went down in the flood of unenacted measures on the closing days of congress. Now the Indiana senator is writing another bill and he plans to introduce it as soon as the new congress is convened. The measure, particularly directed against the anarchist propaganda movement now agitated in the United States, has already been tentatively prepared, and although subject to revision before presentation to congress, it will be substantially as follows concerning the red flag:

"That the display or exhibition at any meeting, gathering or parade, public or private, of any flag, banner or emblem, symbolizing or intended by the person or persons displaying or exhibiting the same to symbolize a purpose to overthrow by force or violence or by physical injury to person or property or by the general cessation of industry, the government of the United States or of all government, is hereby declared to be unlawful."

Provision is also made against the use of the spoken, written and printed words and the use of the mails.

The penalty for violation of the act is a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both.

"There is entirely too much consideration shown to the class of people who employ the red flag in this country," says Senator New.

## Laboratory Experts Now Predict Fireproof Wood

HAVING perfected methods by which bits of wood can be put together so that the whole is as strong as an unbroken piece; having made wood almost as resistant to moisture as iron, and having learned how to season green wood in a few weeks, the experts of the United States forest products laboratory are setting out to do what seems to the layman the impossible—that is, to make wood fireproof.

These remarkable studies in the use and properties of wood are being carried out at the forest products laboratory at Madison, Wis., which does its work in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. In view of the work which this laboratory has done, and is now doing, it is not stretching probabilities to predict that within a few years it may be possible to build a wooden house, for less than wooden houses cost now, which will be at least as fireproof as a stone house and will rival a stone house in lasting qualities.

Loss of wooden structures by fires due very largely to carelessness, in the opinion of the laboratory experts, and they do not refer to carelessness in the use of matches and cigarettes, either. They say that the faulty use of wood in building is the cause of many fires, and they are carrying on investigations to determine just how wood can safely be used.

The experiments are accompanied by others in the making of wood fireproof. The experts say that there is no reason why wood, the cheapest and most pliant building material, should be discriminated against because of its inflammability and its lack of lasting qualities. Both of these shortcomings can and will be overcome.

The forest products laboratory had been puttering along for years until the war stirred it up to real activity.

Many of the things it discovered in war can be applied to peace.

War evidently is not an unmixed evil.

## Wanted: Half-Cent Piece for Paying Luxury Taxes

COMMUNICATIONS have reached the treasury department urging the coining of a half-cent piece as a means of making exact payments of revenue taxes, but there is no indication that the department will favor the proposition.

Agitation on the subject, reported from Chicago and other cities, it was stated by treasury officials, would be successful only if sufficiently strong to induce action by congress. Such action would be necessary before a coin of a new denomination could be issued.

Inasmuch as the extra half cent which taxpayers are required to pay on numerous articles goes into the treasury, its officials would not be likely to take the lead in a move which would cut off a portion of the revenue. Members of congress, as the direct representatives of the people, might champion the proposal.

Officials of the internal revenue bureau are trying to prevent profiteering through greater increases in prices than justified by war taxes. The regulation for the collection of the luxury tax has been framed specifically with a view to this end. It is provided that it must be made clear to the customer just what the price of the article is and the amount of the tax.

Although the luxury tax has been in effect only a short time reports of profiteering are reaching the revenue bureau. Revenue agents say violations will not be tolerated.

Under the revenue law false representations are subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.

